

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 201528Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1004

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0517

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORC, PFOR, US, UV

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: DEPT'S ORGANIZATION, ACTIVITIES
AND OBJECTIVES; REQUEST FOR MULTILATERAL INFORMATION ON
HOST GOVERNMENTS.

REF: STATE 037591

1. EMBASSY FINDS ITSELF IN DIFFICULT POSITION TO ANSWER QUESTIONS
CONTAINED PARA 7 REFTEL. A NEW GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN APPOINTED AND
THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER IS NOT WELL KNOWN TO US. NEVERTHELESS, WE
WILL TRY TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BASED ON OUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE
PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT AND OUR ASSUMPTION THAT UPPER VOLTA'S FOREIGN
POLICY WILL NOT CHANGE DRASTICALLY AS LONG AS PRESIDENT LAMIZANA
REMAINS AS CHIEF OF STATE.

2. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY'S TENTATIVE REPLIED TO QUESTIONS
LISTED PARA 7 REFTEL:

(A) AS ONE OF THE POOREST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, UPPER VOLTA'S
PRIMARY MULTILATERAL INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES IN 1976
ARE LIKELY TO BE RELATED TO THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN DC'S AND
LDC'S, PARTICULARLY THE ACCELERATED TRANSFER OF RESOURCES
AND TECHNOLOGY. UPPER VOLTA CAN ALSO BE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT
ACTIONS AT THE U.N. AND IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AGAINST THE
MINORITY REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. WITH SOMEWHAT LESS
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ENTHUSIASM, UPPER VOLTA WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE

ARAB POSITION IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE. WITH REGARD TO THE LAW OF THE SEA, UPPER VOLTA WILL ACTIVELY DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THE LAND-LOCKED COUNTRIES. AT THIS TIME, WE HAVE NO INFORMATION REGARDING POTENTIAL VOLTAN CANDIDATES FOR POSITIONS IN MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(B) UPPER VOLTA'S POLICIES AND DECISIONS ON SPECIFIC MULTILATERAL ISSUES WILL BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY DECISIONS OF THE OAU AND, TO A LESSER DEGREE, BY THOSE OF THE GROUP OF 77. WHEN THERE IS NO CONSENSUS IN THOSE TWO GROUPS, AND DIFFICULT DECISIONS HAVE TO BE MADE, UPPER VOLTA WILL GENERALLY BE GUIDED BY POSITIONS OF NIGER, TOGO, IVORY COAST, AND SENEGAL IN THAT ORDER. FRANCH STILL HAS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE IN UPPER VOLTA BUT IT HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO USE THIS INFLUENCE IN CONNECTION WITH MULTILATERAL ISSUES. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT UPPER VOLTA MUCH INFLUENCE ON THE POLICIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF FOUR WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES ALREADY MENTIONED.

(C) VOLTAN DELEGATIONS TO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS ARE FULLY INSTRUCTED ONLY ON A FEW ISSUES WHICH ARE OF DIRECT CONCERN TO UPPER VOLTA. WHEN ISSUES HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN DISCUSSED AT OAU MEETINGS AND A CONSENSUS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, DELEGATIONS WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO ADHERE TO THE CONSENSUS. THIS MAY ALSO APPLY TO SOME, BUT NOT ALL, DECISIONS OF THE GROUP OF 77. THERE IS LITTLE REPORTING FROM THE DELEGATIONS AND WE HAVE FOUND TIME AND AGAIN, IN MAKING DEMARCHES TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT VOLTAN OFFICIALS HAD NEVER HEARD OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION WE WANTED TO DISCUSS. IT SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND THAT THERE ARE VERY FEW SUBSTANTIVE OFFICERS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND THAT DURING THE UNGA SESSIONS, PRACTICALLY HALF OF THEM ARE IN NEW YORK. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE AFRICAN CAUCUS IN NEW YORK OFTEN DETERMINES UPPER VOLTA'S POSITION ON ISSUES WHICH ARE NOT OF VITAL INTEREST TO UPPER VOLTA.

(D) WE DOUBT THAT MOST VOLTAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OR HEADS OF DELEGATIONS HAVE SUFFICIENT INDEPENDENT POLITICAL POWER TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTROL OR INSTRUCT THEM.

(E) IN THE PAST, THE VOLTAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN REASONABLY RECEPTIVE TO U.S. REPRESENTATIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES. A
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CASE IN POINT IS THE KOREAN QUESTION AT THE LAST UNGA WHEN UPPER VOLTA WAS CO-SPONSOR OF THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION BUT INSTRUCTED ITS DELEGATION TO BE ABSENT DURING THE FINAL VOTE IN PLENARY, AFTER AMBASSADOR GRAHM MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO PRESIDENT LAMIZANA. THE CONCEPT THAT USG/GOUV INTERACTION ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES IS PART OF BILATERAL RELATIONS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED, BUT THIS CUTS BOTH WAYS AND, ALTHOUGH HE HAS BEEN DISCREET ABOUT IT SO FAR, PRESIDENT LAMIZANA MUST BE WONDERING WHETHER UPPER

VOLTA WILL GET ANYTHING OUT OF THE DRASTIC ACTION IT TOOK ON THE KOREAN QUESTION. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THE VOLTAN GOVERNMENT HAS SOLICITED U.S. SUPPORT IN THE PAST ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH VOLTAN CANDIDATES FOR POSITIONS IN MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS.

3. UNDOUBTEDLY OTHER SMALL EMBASSIES IN FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE COMMENTED ON THE DIFFICULTY OF MAKING REPRESENTATIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES WHEN ALL THE DOCUMENTATION IS IN ENGLISH. IN OUAGADOUGOU WE SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE THE FACILITIES FOR TRANSLATION ESPECIALLY FOR CONFIDENTIAL AIDE-MEMOIRES. THE ENGLISH TEXT OF A DOCUMENT OR A RESOLUTION IS PRACTICALLY USELESS TO US. IN MOST CASES, BOTH ENGLISH AND FRENCH TEXTS ARE AVAILABLE IN NEW YORK AND ONLY THE FRENCH TEXT SHOULD BE CABLED TO US.
GRAHAM

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